Improvement in the consumer service, Department of Telecom

973. SHRI BRAHMAKUMAR BHATT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Doorsanchar Ke Kaam Kaj Se Asantosh Mein Paswan Bhee" published in the Nav Bharat Times dated the 8th June, 2000;

(b) if so, whether while heading the First Joint Meeting of the National Telecom Advisory Committee, he admitted that he was not completely satisfied with the Consumer Departments Services and it is to be necessary to know how the working of the Department has to be improved; and

(c) the steps being taken to improve the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) "Consumer Departments Services" is a misnomer as there is no "Consumer Departments Services" in Ministry of Communications. There is nothing to suggest in the deliberations of the meeting that Hon'ble Minister of Communications was not satisfied with the working of the Department of Telecom Services. However, Hon'ble MOC touched upon unsatisfactory performance of MARR equipments used in VPTs, unfulfilment of the target fixed for VPTs, expeditious clearance of faults and attendance to the public grievances.

(c) (i) An action plan has been drawn to replace 1,11,000 MARR systems by Wireless in Local Loop (WLL) System and 1,00,000 more villages will be covered with WLL system in the current year.

(ii) A grievance Cell has been set up to redress public grievance and early clearance of faults. This has already started yielding desired results.

(iii) A committee has been set up under a Sr. DDG for monitoring performance in rural areas.

(iv) All Southern States are to cover their villages by VPTs by 2001.

(v) A committee under MOS(C) has been set up to identify technologies appropriate to the need of the country.

(vi) A committee under Advisor (O) has been set up to suggest ways and means to provide world class service in big cities.

(vii) Pagers have been supplied to line staff for speedy clearance of faults in all State capitals.

Raid on Bengali T.V. channel owner's offices

974. SHRI BRATIN SENGUPTA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a raid was conducted on a Bengali T.V. channel owner's all offices in the country;

(b) the reasons for the recovery being not as expected; and

(c) whether there was any case of suspected leakage of information from local sources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI V. DHANANJAY KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. During the search proceedings undisclosed income of Rs. 23,10,684/was admitted. Total Income is, however, yet to be determined under the provisions of the Income Tax Act.

(c) No, Sir.

Charges levelled against former Revenue Secretary

975. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the suspended Additional Commissioner of Income Tax has accused the former Revenue Secretary and present Secretary to PM of gross criminal misconduct in connection with Voluntary Disclosure of Income Scheme (VDIS);

(b) if so, the details of the charges made;

(c) whether Government would have these charges inquired into by a suitable investigating agency; and